Qualification of AIIMS President

1280. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:
SHRI AMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the rules including the qualification governing the appointment of President of the All India Institute of Medical Science;

(b) whether the Present President fulfils those qualifications;

(c) if not, what are the reasons for his holding the post of President; and

(d) whether Government had received any complaints for the appointment of the Present President and if so, the details thereof and what action has been taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) Section 7 (1) of the AIIMS Act provides that there shall be a President of the Institute, who shall be nominated by the Central Government from among the members of the Institute. The present President, who is a Member of the Institute under Section 4 (e) of the AIIMS Act has been nominated by the Central Government to be the President of the Institute under Section 7(1) of the Act.

Gauge-conversion projects

1281. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total length of railway track in kilometres at present, gauge-wise;

(b) the details of railway track converted from meter-gauge to broad-gauge during each of the last three years, State-wise, till date;

(c) the expenditure on gauge-conversion during the said period;

(d) whether some requests/proposals for gauge-conversion received from the various State Governments are pending with his Ministry; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the action being taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The gauge-wise length of rail track as on 31.03.2005 (latest available) was as under:

Gauge	Route Kms.	Running Track Kms.	Total Track Kms. (including yards, sidings, etc.)
Broad Gauge (1676 mm)	47,749	67,932	89,771
Metre Gauge (1000 mm)	12,662	13,271	15,684
Narrow Gauge (762/610 mm)	3,054	3,057	3,350
TOTAL	63,465	84,260	108,805

(b) State-wise, year-wise break up of gauge conversion completed since 2003-04 is as under:

State	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	Total Kms.
Andhra Pradesh	30	163	14	207
North East and Assam	--	61	--	61
Bihar	--	--	85	85
Delhi	--	--	25	25
Gujarat	152	92	248	492
Haryana	--	--	58	58
Jharkhand	--	67	--	67
Karnataka	57	45	44	146
Madhya Pradesh	--	28	--	28
Maharashtra	--	20	--	20
Orissa	--	52	--	52
Rajasthan	241	131	–	372
Tamil Nadu	176	48	86	310
Uttar Pradesh	–	30	137	167
West Bengal	198	42	47	287
TOTAL	854	779	744	2377

(c) The expenditure incurred on gauge conversion during the said period is approximately Rs. 3,708 crore.

(d) and (e) Details of each and every demand received is not maintained. However, details of some of the proposals received from various State Governments and where gauge conversion is yet to be taken up are as under:—

State	Proposal	Action Taken
Gujarat	Bharuch-Dahej	Included in the Budget 2006-07.
Gujarat	Ahmedabad-Botad	Survey taken up.
Gujarat	Surendranagar-Joravarnagar-Sayla	Gauge conversion from Surendranagar to Joravarnagar has already been completed. Joravarnagar-Sayla line has been dismantled long back.
Gujarat/ Rajasthan	Ahmedabad-Himmat nagar-Udaipur	Survey completed.
Gujarat	Dhasa-Jetalsar	Survey taken up.
Gujarat	Bhuj-Naliya	Updating survey with extension upto Baranda/Koteswar taken up.
Gujarat	Mehsana-Taranga Hill Extension upto Ambaji	Updating survey taken up.
Maharashtra	Yavatmal-Murtijapur-Achalpur	Survey completed.
Maharashtra	Pachora-Jamner	Survey completed in 2000-01 and work could not be taken up.
Maharashtra	Purna-Khandwa	Updating survey from Ratlam to Akola taken up.
Rajasthan	Jaipur-Ringus-Sikar-Churu-Ganganagar	Survey taken up.
Rajasthan	Bikaner-Churu-Ratangarh-Degana-Rewari	Survey completed.

State	Proposal	Action Taken
Uttaranchal	Bareilly-Tanakpur	Bareilly-Bhojipura (19 kms.) gauge conversion taken up. The proposal for Bhojipura-Pilibhit-Tanakpur has been sent to Planning Commission for "in principle" approval.

Rail projects

1282. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are 84 rail projects worth Rs. 20,000 crores lying grounded for decades;

(b) whether these projects have been mentioned as ongoing projects of new lines and gauge conversion in successive budgets for the last 20 years and are mostly in remote and backward areas;

(c) if so, what are the main reasons for delay in completion of these projects; and

(d) if so, what are the steps his Ministry is considering to build these projects which are highly needed for backward areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) These are ongoing projects included in the various Budgets. The projects are being progressed as per availability of resources.

(d) A number of initiatives have been taken to expedite completion of these ongoing projects. Minister for Railways has written to Chief Ministers of States to consider suitable cost sharing for the ongoing New Line and Gauge Conversion projects to the extent of 50% or more.